programmes is needed to have an impact on the situation. Since school education is being looked after mostly by State Governments, basically the specific measures will have to be implemented by them. The Government of India's role is confined to assisting the State Governments/Union Territories in various ways and to issue guidelines based on policy and academic considerations. Some of the important measures being advocated/ implemented for reducing drop-out rates are:

(1) introduction of ungraded school system and no detention policy coupled with a system of continuous assessment till the children complete class VIII;

(2) more meaningful involvement of the local community to increase awareness among parents, improvement of school environment and school attendance;

(3) many States/U.Ts. are implementing various incentive programmes like free supply of text-books, uniforms to girls, mid-day-meals etc.;

(4) use of State Government and NREP/RLEGP resources for construction of school buildings to make schools more viable;

(5) Eighth Finance Commission has recommended devolution of Rs. 156.18 crores for construction of school buildings to 11 States and Rs. 64.75 crores for appointment of teachers in eight States to partially make good the deficiency in these sectors;

(6) pre-service training of teachers is sought to be improved and a regular programme for large scale in-service training of teachers has been initiated for improving teacher motivation and their competency;

(7) constant upgradation and improvement of school curricula particularly through UNICEF assisted Projects for making them more interesting and local environment related;

(8) a large scale non-formal education programme has been developed and assistance to nine educationally backward States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal which include 75 per cent of non-enrolled children in the country is being given by Govt. of India under this programme;

(9) through Adult Education and general awareness programme by using mass media awareness among parents is sought to be increased so that the educational facilities available are made use of.

It is proposed to pursue these and other measure vigorously during the VII plan period.

Legislation for Minimum Cargo for Ships

225. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a legislation guaranteeing minimum cargo for the ships is under consideration;

(b) whether Government are likely to earmark their own cargo for the national carriers; and

(c) what is likely to be the basis of further financial incentives to the shipping industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are standing instructions to Public Sector Undertakings/Government Departments to negotiate as far as possible, C & F exports and FOB imports. These are designed to maximise cargo availability to Indian lines.

(c) No decision has yet been taken.